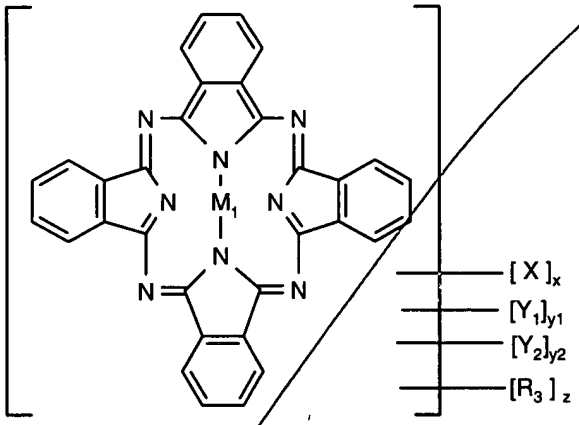
Please amend the above-identified patent application, without prejudice, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1, 5, 6 and 7.

Amend claims 2, 3, 4 and 8-11 by replacement as follows:

2. (amended) A process according to claim 8 wherein the metallocenyl-phthalocyanine compound is represented by formula I



(I),

wherein

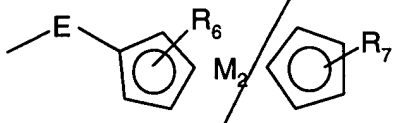
M_1 is a divalent metal, an oxometal group, halogenometal group or hydroxymetal group, or two hydrogen atoms,

X is halogen

Y_1 is $-OR_1$, $-OOC-R_2$, $-NHR_1$, $-N(R_1)R_2$,

Y_2 is $-SR_1$,

R_3 is



R_6 and R_7 are each independently of the other hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, amino-C_1-C_4alkyl, diarylphosphine, or phosphorus-containing C_1-C_4alkyl,

x may be a rational number from 0 to 8

y_1 and y_2 may be each independently of the other a rational number from 0 to 6

z may be a number from 1 to 4,

wherein $(x + y_1 + y_2 + z)$ is ≤ 16,

and wherein R_1 and R_2 may be each independently of the other

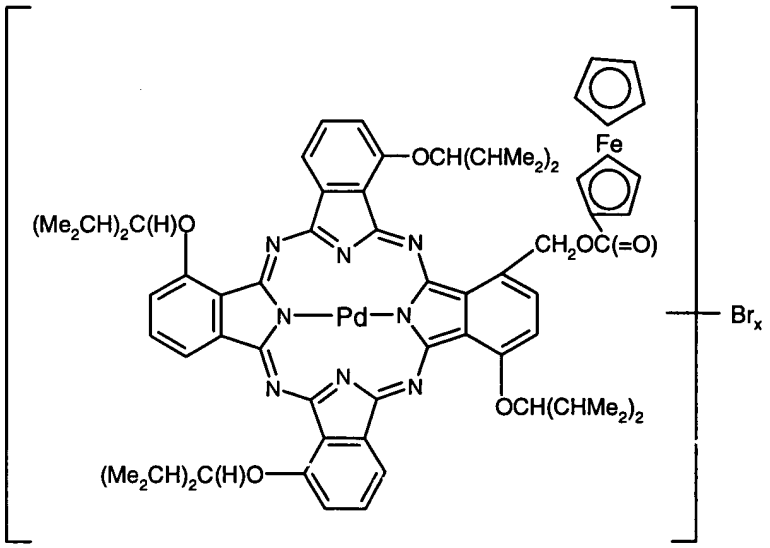
C_1-C_{20}alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_{20}alkoxy, C_1-C_{20}alkylamino or C_2-C_{20}dialkylamino and which may be interrupted by –O–, –S–, –NH– or –NR_{10}–, wherein R_{10} may be C_1-C_6alkyl,

C_5-C_{20}cycloalkyl, C_2-C_{20}alkenyl, C_5-C_{12}cycloalkenyl, C_2-C_{20}alkynyl, C_6-C_{18}aryl or C_7-C_{18}aralkyl,

and wherein one or two ligands may optionally be bound to the divalent metal atom, the oxometal group, halogenometal group or hydroxymetal group, and E being composed of a chain of at least two members selected from the group consisting of -CH_2-, -C(=O)-, -CH(C_1-C_4alkyl)-, -C(C_1-C_4alkyl)$_2$-, -NH-, -S-, -O- and -CH=CH-.

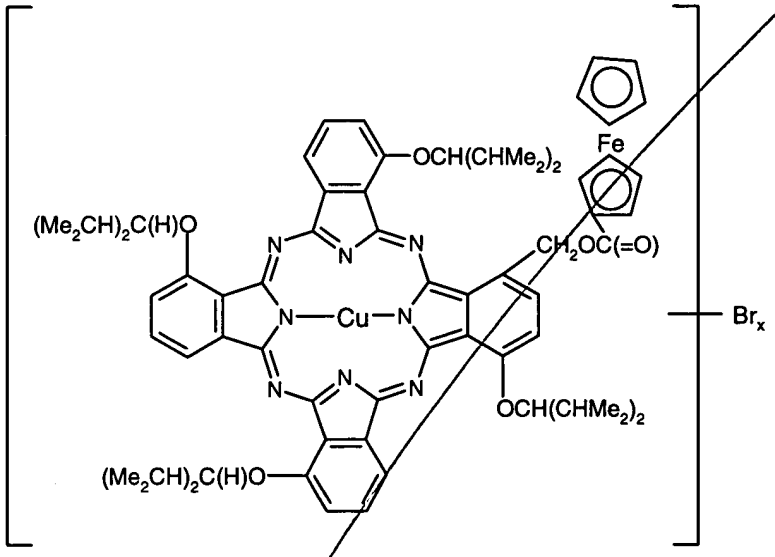
A1 cont

3. (amended) A A process according to claim 8 wherein the metallocenyl-phthalocyanine compound is represented by formula



where x = 2.6 to 3.0, preferably 2.7 to 2.9, more preferably 2.8

4. (amended) A A process according to claim 8 wherein the metallocenyl-phthalocyanine compound is represented by formula



where x = 0 to 0.5

A1 cont.

8. (amended) A process for the manufacture of optical recording medium having at least one recording layer comprising the steps of

a) incorporating a metallocenyl-phthalocyanine or its metal complex of a divalent metal, oxometal, halogenometal or hydroxymetal, in which at least one of the four phenyl rings of the phthalocyanines contains, bound via a bridge unit E, at least one metallocene radical as substituent, E being composed of a chain of at least two members selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-C(=O)-$, $-CH(C_1-C_4alkyl)-$, $-C(C_1-C_4alkyl)_2-$, -NH-, -S-, -O- and -CH=CH- into said recording layer.

A2

9. (amended) An optical recording medium, which comprises a metallocenyl-phthalocyanine or its metal complex of a divalent metal, oxometal, halogenometal or hydroxymetal, in which at least one of the four phenyl rings of the phthalocyanines contains, bound via a bridge unit E, at least one metallocene radical as substituent, E being composed of a chain of at least two members selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-C(=O)-$, $-CH(C_1-C_4alkyl)-$, $-C(C_1-C_4alkyl)_2-$, -NH-, -S-, -O- and -CH=CH-.

10. (amended) An optical recording medium, which consists essentially of a transparent substrate, a recording layer on that substrate, a reflection layer on the recording layer and, if desired, a final protective layer, the recording layer comprising a metallocenyl-phthalocyanine or its metal complex of a divalent metal, oxometal, halogenometal or hydroxymetal, in which at least one of the four phenyl rings of the phthalocyanines contains, bound via a bridge unit E, at least one metallocene radical as substituent, E being composed of a chain of at least two members selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-C(=O)-$, $-CH(C_1\text{-}C_4alkyl)-$, $-C(C_1\text{-}C_4alkyl)_2-$, -NH-, -S-, -O- and -CH=CH-.

A2 cont

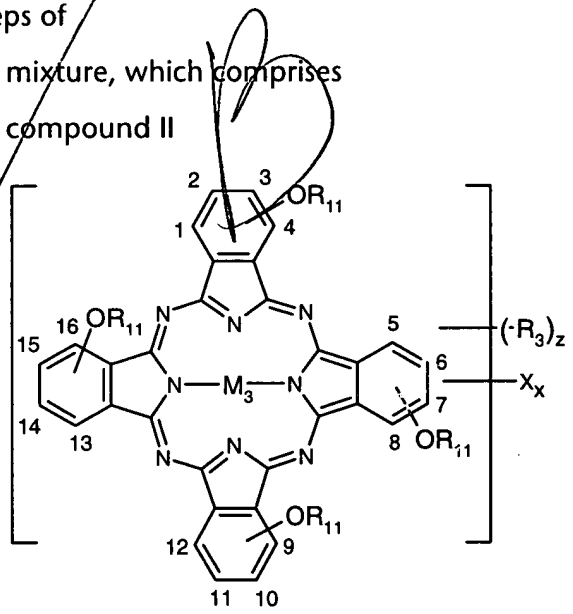
11. (amended) A process according to claim 8 wherein the optical recording medium is a DVD, a diffractive-optical element or medium for recording a hologram.

Insert new claims 12-23 as follows:

12. (new) A process for the manufacture of optical recording medium having at least one recording layer comprising the steps of

a) incorporating mixture, which comprises

(a) 60 to 95 mol % of a compound II



(II)

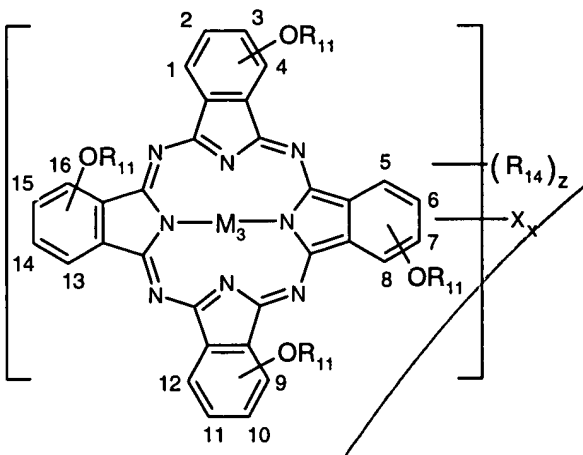
containing one radical R_3 (z = 1),

(b) 5 to 20 mol % of a compound II containing two radicals R_3 (z = 2),

and

(c) 0 to 25 mol % of a compound IV

A3



(IV)

wherein $-OR_{11}$, $R_3 = R_{14}$, X and M_3 each have the same meaning in formulae II and IV and are as defined in claim 2, the mol-% amounts making up 100%

into said recording layer.

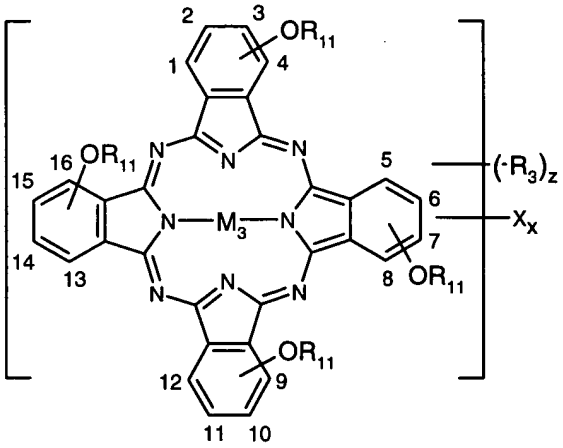
13. (new) A process according to claim 2 wherein the optical recording medium is a DVD, a diffractive-optical element or medium for recording a hologram.

14. (new) A process for the manufacture of optical recording medium having at least one recording layer comprising the steps of

a) incorporating a mixture, which comprises

A3 cont.

(a) 60 to 95 mol % of a compound II



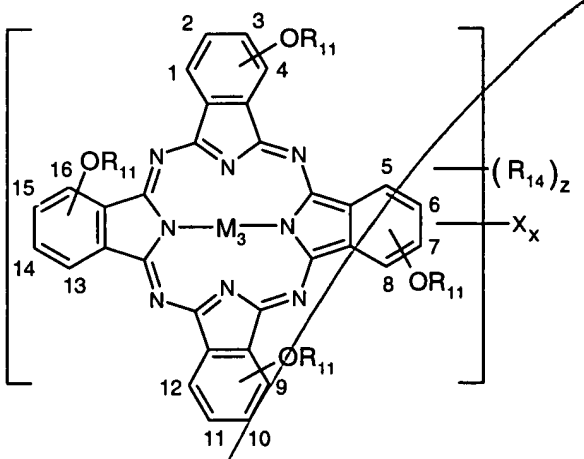
(II)

containing one radical R_3 (z = 1),

wherein R_{11} is C_1-C_{12}alkyl and M_3 is palladium or copper, and z is 1,

(b) 5 to 20 mol % of a compound II containing two R_3 (z = 2), and

(c) 0 to 25 mol % of a compound IV



(IV)

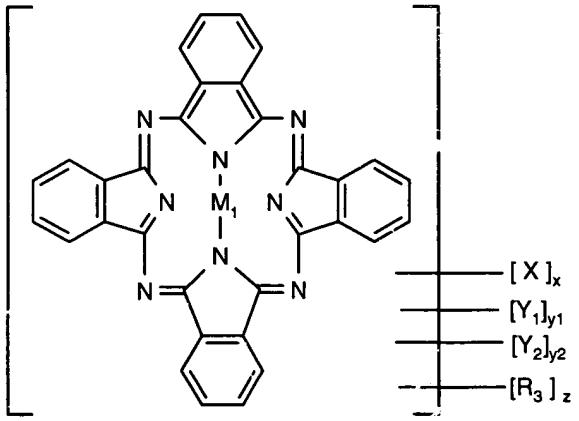
wherein R_{14} may be -CHO, $-CH_2OH$, -COOH, $-CH_2OC(O)-C_1-C_4$alkyl or an acetal, and z may be 1 or 2,

wherein $-OR_{11}$, $R_3 = R_{14}$, X and M_3 each have the same meanings in formulae II and IV and are as defined for claim 2, the mol-% amounts making up 100%

into said recording layer.

15. (new) A process according to claim 14 wherein the optical recording medium is a DVD, a diffractive-optical element or medium for recording a hologram.

16. (new) An optical recording medium according to claim 9 wherein the metallocenyl-phthalocyanine compound is represented by formula I



(I),

wherein

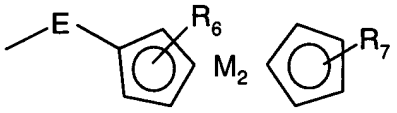
M_1 is a divalent metal, an oxometal group, halogenometal group or hydroxymetal group, or two hydrogen atoms,

X is halogen

Y_1 is $-OR_1$, $-OOC-R_2$, $-NHR_1$, $-N(R_1)R_2$,

Y_2 is $-SR_1$,

R_3 is



R_6 and R_7 are each independently of the other hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, amino-C_1-C_4alkyl, diarylphosphine, or phosphorus-containing C_1-C_4alkyl,

x may be a rational number from 0 to 8

y_1 and y_2 may be each independently of the other a rational number from 0 to 6

z may be a number from 1 to 4,

wherein $(x + y_1 + y_2 + z)$ is ≤ 16,

A3 cont.

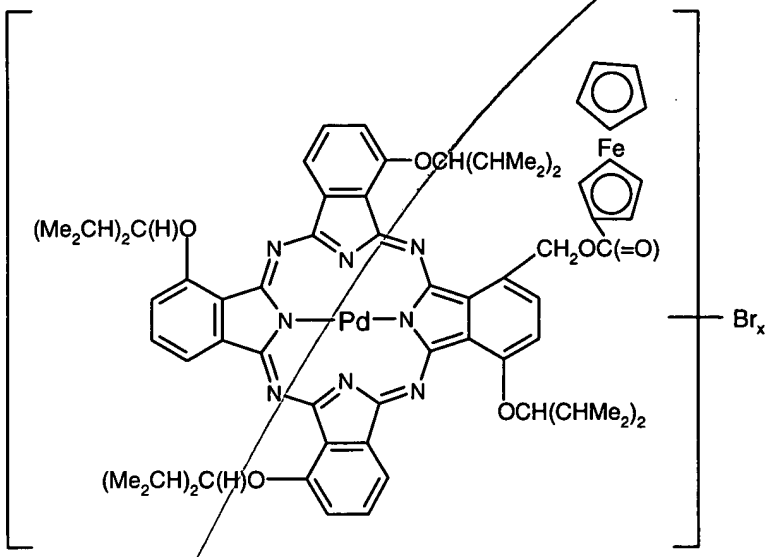
and wherein R_1 and R_2 may be each independently of the other

C_1-C_{20}alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_{20}alkoxy, C_1-C_{20}alkylamino or C_2-C_{20}dialkylamino and which may be interrupted by –O–, –S–, –NH– or $-NR_{10}-$, wherein R_{10} may be C_1-C_6alkyl,

C_5-C_{20}cycloalkyl, C_2-C_{20}alkenyl, C_5-C_{12}cycloalkenyl, C_2-C_{20}alkynyl, C_6-C_{18}aryl or C_7-C_{18}aralkyl,

and wherein one or two ligands may optionally be bound to the divalent metal atom, the oxometal group, halogenometal group or hydroxymetal group, and E being composed of a chain of at least two members selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, -C(=O)-, $-CH(C_1-C_4alkyl)-$, $-C(C_1-C_4alkyl)_2-$, -NH-, -S-, -O- and -CH=CH-.

17. (new) An optical recording medium according to claim 9 wherein the metallocenyl-phthalocyanine compound is represented by formula

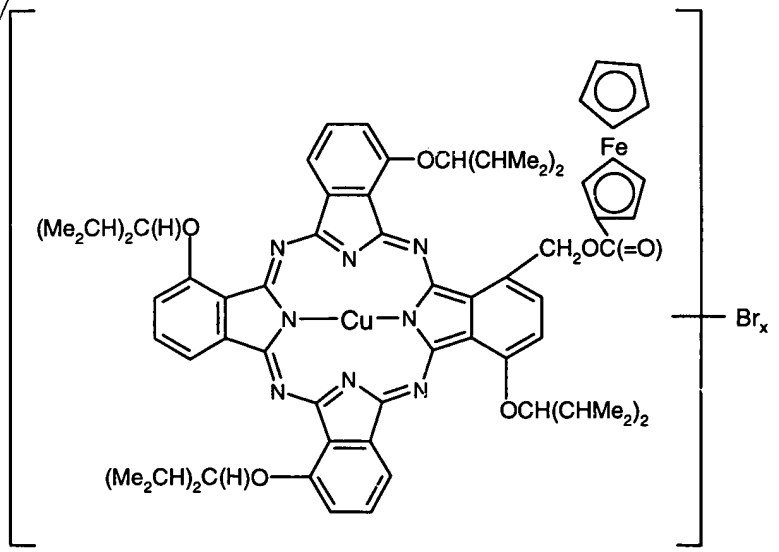


where x = 2.6 to 3.0, preferably 2.7 to 2.9, more preferably 2.8

18. (new) An optical recording medium according to claim 17 wherein the optical recording medium is a DVD, a diffractive-optical element or medium for recording a hologram.

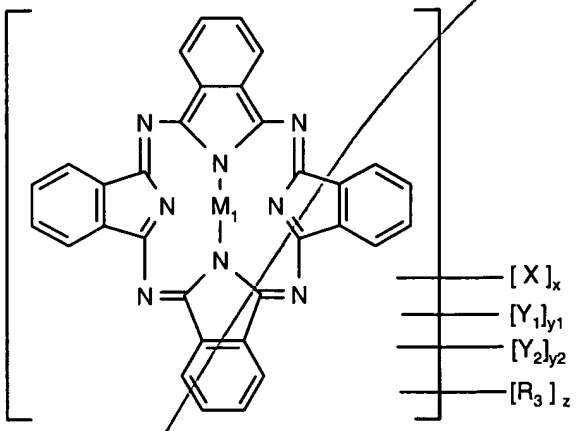
A3 cont.

19. (new) An optical recording medium according to claim 9 wherein the metallocenyl-phthalocyanine compound is represented by formula



where x = 0 to 0.5

20. (new) An optical recording medium according to claim 10 wherein the metallocenyl-phthalocyanine compound is represented by formula I



(I),

wherein

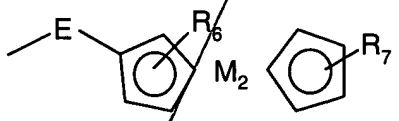
M_1 is a divalent metal, an oxometal group, halogenometal group or hydroxymetal group, or two hydrogen atoms,

X is halogen

Y_1 is $-OR_1$, $-OOC-R_2$, $-NHR_1$, $-N(R_1)R_2$,

Y_2 is $-SR_1$,

R_3 is



R_6 and R_7 are each independently of the other hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, amino-C_1-C_4alkyl, diarylphosphine, or phosphorus-containing C_1-C_4alkyl,

x may be a rational number from 0 to 8

y_1 and y_2 may be each independently of the other a rational number from 0 to 6

z may be a number from 1 to 4,

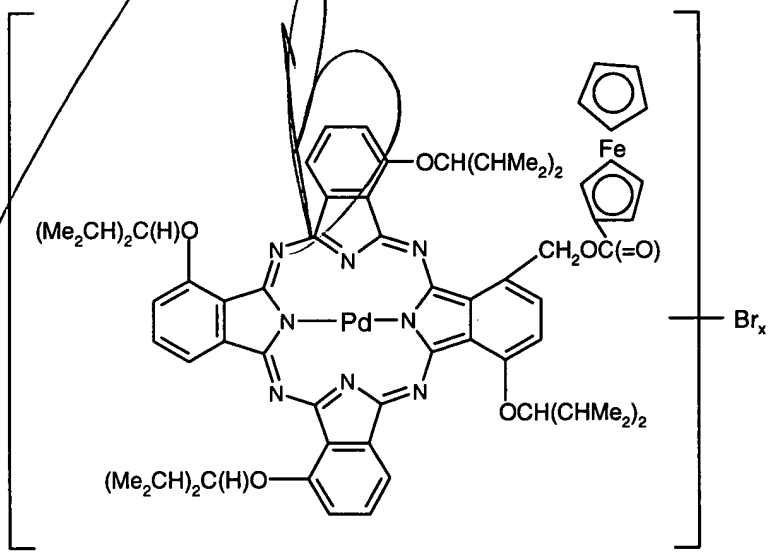
wherein $(x + y_1 + y_2 + z)$ is ≤ 16,

and wherein R_1 and R_2 may be each independently of the other

C_1-C_{20}alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_{20}alkoxy, C_1-C_{20}alkylamino or C_2-C_{20}dialkylamino and which may be interrupted by –O–, –S–, –NH– or –NR_{10}–, wherein R_{10} may be C_1-C_6alkyl,

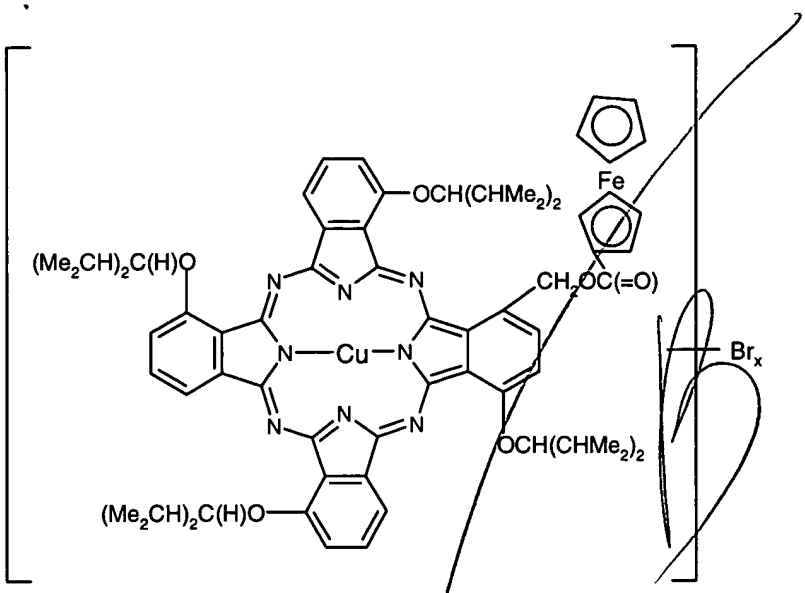
C_5-C_{20}cycloalkyl, C_2-C_{20}alkenyl, C_5-C_{12}cycloalkenyl, C_2-C_{20}alkynyl, C_6-C_{18}aryl or C_7-C_{18}aralkyl, and wherein one or two ligands may optionally be bound to the divalent metal atom, the oxometal group, halogenometal group or hydroxymetal group, and E being composed of a chain of at least two members selected from the group consisting of -CH_2-, -C(=O)-, -CH(C_1-C_4alkyl)-, -C(C_1-C_4alkyl)$_2$-, -NH-, -S-, -O- and -CH=CH-.

21. (new) An optical recording medium according to claim 10 wherein the metallocenyl-phthalocyanine compound is represented by formula



where x = 2.6 to 3.0, preferably 2.7 to 2.9, more preferably 2.8

22. (new) An optical recording medium according to claim 10 wherein the metallocenyl-phthalocyanine compound is represented by formula



where x = 0 to 0.5

23. (new) An optical recording medium according to claim 22 wherein the optical recording medium is a DVD, a diffractive-optical element or medium for recording a hologram.